

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Brendan Thompson)
MEETING DATE: September 14, 2011

ITEM: **6B**

SUBJECT: **California Department of Transportation, Devil's Slide Tunnel Project, State Route 1, San Mateo County** — Reissuance of NPDES Permit

CHRONOLOGY: July 2006 — NPDES permit issued

DISCUSSION: The Revised Tentative Order (Appendix A) would reissue the NPDES permit for the discharge of treated wastewater from the California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) Devil's Slide Tunnel Project through Montara Mountain in San Mateo County. Groundwater mixed with sediment and construction-related materials is being treated during the construction phase of the project, and groundwater from tunnel formation drainage will be treated to adjust its pH after tunnel completion. The treated wastewater is discharged to the Pacific Ocean.

Tunnel drilling has been completed. Significant remaining construction activities include completion of the tunnel lining, roadway construction, and completion of the tunnel approaches and portals. Construction is expected to be completed in December 2012.

The Revised Tentative Order contains new chromium VI and ammonia effluent limitations because there is a reasonable potential for these pollutants to occur in the discharge and, without sufficient treatment, cause or contribute to exceedances of water quality objectives. Also, because groundwater flows during tunnel drilling were far below the 1.15 million gallons per day maximum daily discharge specified in the existing permit, we lowered the maximum permitted discharge in the Revised Tentative Order to 0.50 million gallons per day.

Only Caltrans submitted comments (Appendix B) on the tentative order distributed for public review. We made many of the changes requested, and believe we have resolved all issues. The changes are described in the Response to Comments (Appendix C) and are reflected in the Revised Tentative Order. We expect this item to remain uncontested.

RECOMMEND-
ATION: Adopt the Revised Tentative Order

CIWQS Place ID: 223123 (BT)

Appendices: A. Revised Tentative Order
B. Comments
C. Response to Comments